

Minutes.....March 12, 2001

10:00 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on March 12, 2001, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Matt Brainard, Commissioner

Commissioner Rowe was absent but left written votes with the Commission Secretary.

APPEARANCE
Dennis Crawford
Utility Division

(96) In the matter of Qwest Corporation, Docket No. N2001.2.23; On February 23, 2001, Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 01-06 to introduce a new optional feature called NextConnects. This new feature provides customers with the ability to queue calls when all incoming lines are busy. During the limited promotional period from March 26, 2001 through May 24, 2001, customers who subscribe to NextConnects will receive a waiver of the nonrecurring charge to install up to three groups of two queue slots and the customers will also receive a waiver of the first month's recurring charge for up to three groups of two queue slots. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(97) In the matter of Qwest Corporation, Docket No. N2001.2.22; On February 23, 2001, Qwest Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 01-05 "Introduce Easy Access", a new Custom Calling Service. The service is available for residential and business customers. Easy Access is a new service that provides customers the ability to dial *98 and automatically connect to another predetermined number. Commissioner Stovall moved to approve the tariff filing. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(98) In the matter of T-01.1.PCN; On December 15, 2000 Jerry Kimmet dba Red Carpet Limousine, Choteau, Montana filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. The application was noticed to the public on January 10, 2001. One protest was received and that protest has now been withdrawn. Staff recommends approval of the application as applied for.

Class B - Passengers in limousine service between all points and places in Cascade, ,
Glacier, Lewis and Clark, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties, Montana. LIMITATION:
All transportation movements must originate or terminate in Teton County, Montana.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the application. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Minutes.....March 12, 2001

10:00 a.m.

APPEARANCE
Laura Calkin
Centralized Services

(99) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes; Commissioner Brainard moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of March 5, 2001. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

Minutes.....March 13, 2001 9:00 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on March 13, 2001, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Bob Rowe, Commissioner, via telephone

Commissioner Brainard was absent and did not leave votes.

APPEARANCE
Martin Jacobson

(100) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of JETCO Gas Supplier License Application, Docket No. N2001.2.21; Commissioner Rowe moved to approve the license as requested. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-0.

APPEARANCE
Robin McHugh, Marla Larson

(101) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Qwest Detariffing of Directory Assistance, Docket No. D2000.1.4; Commissioner Anderson moved to deny Qwest's request for reconsideration. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

Minutes.....March 15, 2001

9:00 a.m.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, March 15, 2001, the following members were present:

Gary Feland, Chairman
Jay Stovall, Vice Chairman, via telephone
Bob Anderson, Commissioner
Matt Brainard, Commissioner
Bob Rowe, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Denise Peterson, Dave Hoffman, Will Rosquist, Eric Eck

(102) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket No. D97.7.90 - Investigate Commission's authority to regulate generation prior the Commission's final order regarding SB 390 Transition Plan; Commissioner Brainard moved to adopt and issue the following statement:

The Montana Public Service Commission has considered its existing statutory authority, including Title 69, Chapters 3 and 8, Montana Code Annotated (1999), and has considered all filings with the Commission in relation to its authority over utility rates and service. The Commission hereby affirms to the 57th Legislature of the State of Montana and to the People of the State of Montana that it will act within its existing statutory authority to exercise full supervisory and regulatory authority over Montana Power Company's electrical rates and service through the duration of the extended period of transition to choice. This ongoing authority necessarily imposes the obligation to and right to establish retail rates based on the cost of generation assets in the rate base that were historically included in the vertically integrated system.

Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(103) Commissioner Anderson recommended language to amend the last sentence of the paragraph to read as follows:

This ongoing authority necessarily imposes the obligation to and right to establish just and reasonable retail rates.

Commissioner Brainard moved to offer the amendment to alter the language. Commissioner Rowe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(104) Commissioner Anderson moved to direct staff to prepare a notice affirming the PSC's continuing jurisdiction over Montana Power Company (MPC) as a regulated public utility pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA, providing fully-regulated utility service of generation, transmission and delivery of electricity to its ratepayers, including full supervisory and regulatory authority over MPC's rates and service. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed with 3-2 vote. Commissioners Anderson, Rowe and Stovall voted aye. Commissioners Feland and Brainard dissented.

Minutes.....March 15, 2001

9:00 a.m.

APPEARANCE

Will Rosquist, Denise Peterson, Dave Hoffman, Eric Eck

(105) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of PSC's Plan for a Short-Term Solution for Large Industrial Customers; Commissioner Rowe moved to issue a Notice of Inquiry. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)